

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing an image signal, in which method input image information for an input image is converted into an image forming controlling signal for an image forming apparatus, said method comprising the step of:

(a) calculating an area where a drawing object is formed, based on at least one attribute of the drawing object when a type of the drawing object indicates the drawing object is character information; and

[(a)](b) controlling a conversion from said input image information into said image forming controlling signal based on [[a]] the type of [[a]] the drawing object for the input image and background information for a background of the area where the drawing object is formed,

wherein said background information [[shows]] indicates a value based on a color as a reference in the uniform color space of a single color forming image in [[an]] the area where said drawing object is formed.

2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said background information indicates an average of background colors in [[an]] the area where said drawing object is formed.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said image information for said drawing object indicates black or white, said conversion to the image forming controlling signal based on said background information is not controlled.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein when a color difference between color information for said drawing object and background information in an area where said drawing object is formed is smaller than a predetermined color difference, said conversion into the image forming controlling signal based on said background information is controlled.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined color difference is defined based on a character type, a character size, a character style, a character color, a line type, a line thickness and a part of or the entire line color.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said input image is a color image and said image forming apparatus is a color image forming apparatus, and

said step (a) comprises the step of (b) correcting a color, in said input image, located outside of a color reproduction range of said color image forming apparatus to another color located inside of the color reproduction range.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said step (b) controls a direction to compress and map a color, in said input image, located outside of said color reproduction range to another color located inside of said color reproduction ranges based on the type of the drawing object for said input image and the background information where said drawing object is formed.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said step (b) controls the direction to compress and map the color within a range from a direction

maintaining a hue and a brightness to another direction maintaining a saturation.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said background information indicates an average of the background colors in an area where said drawing object is formed.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus for processing an image signal, in which apparatus input image information for an input image is converted into an image forming controlling signal for an image forming apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

an object type determining part determining a type of a drawing object for an input image;

a calculating part calculating an area where the drawing object is formed, based on at least one attribute of the drawing object when the type of the drawing object indicates the drawing object is character information;

a background color information extracting part extracting background information for a background of the area where said drawing object is formed; and

a controlling part controlling a conversion from said input image information into said image forming controlling signal based on the type of the drawing object and the background information,

wherein said background information ~~shows~~ indicates a value based on a color as a reference in the uniform color space of a single color forming image in [[an]] the area where said drawing object is formed.

12. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

said input image is a color image and said image forming apparatus is a color image forming apparatus; and

said controlling part comprises a color correcting part correcting a color, in said input image, located outside of a color reproduction range of said color image forming apparatus to another color located inside of the color reproduction range.

13. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said color correcting part controls a direction to compress and map a color, in said input image, located outside of said color reproduction range to another color located inside of said color reproduction range based on the type of the drawing object for said input image and the background information where said drawing object is formed.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for causing a computer to process an image signal, in which computer input image information for an input image is converted into an image forming controlling signal for an image forming apparatus, said program comprising the codes of:

(a) determining a type of a drawing object for said input image;

(b) calculating an area where a drawing object is formed, based on at least one attribute of the drawing object when a type of the drawing object indicates the drawing object is character information;

[[(b)]] (c) extracting background information for a background where said drawing object is formed; and

[[(c)]] (d) controlling a conversion from said input image information into said image forming controlling signal based on the type of the drawing object and the background information of the area where the drawing object is formed,

wherein said background information shows a value based on a color as a reference in the uniform color space of a single color forming image in [[an]] the area where said drawing object is formed.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for causing a computer to process an image signal, in which computer input image information for an input image is converted into an image forming controlling signal for an image forming apparatus, said program comprising the codes of:

(a) determining a type of a drawing object for said input image;

(b) calculating an area where a drawing object is formed, based on at least one attribute of the drawing object when a type of the drawing object indicates the drawing object is character information

[[(b)]] (c) extracting background information for a background where said drawing object is formed; and

[[(c)]] (d) controlling a direction to compress and map a color, in said input image, located outside of said color reproduction range to another color located inside of said color reproduction ranges based on the type of the drawing object and the background information of the area where the drawing object is formed

wherein said background information ~~shows~~ indicates a value based on a color as a reference in the uniform color space of a single color forming image in [[an]] the area where said drawing object is formed.